

### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 11, 2006. Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, and 13-17 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 9-11, and 17 are in independent form.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 9-12 and 17, and the indication that Claims 2-6 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,026,212 to *Oguro*. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Oguro* in view of U.S. Patent 6,963,374 to *Nakamura et al*; and Claim 16, as being obvious from *Oguro*.

First, cancellation of Claim 2 renders the rejection of that claim moot.

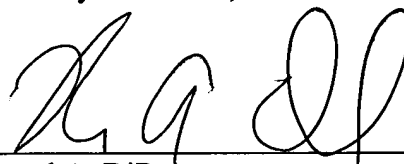
Second, as noted above, since the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. DiPerna', written over a horizontal line.

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